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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 788 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY OBERLANDER, NEILSON, READSHAW, HENNESSEY, QUIGLEY,  
FEE, BURNS, ROTHMAN, DAY, CAUSER, DUSH, SONNEY, MILLARD,  
RYAN, DiGIROLAMO, COX, LONGIETTI, BIZZARRO, GODSHALL,  
GREINER, YOUNGBLOOD, BERNSTINE, MURT, PICKETT, WARD,  
DONATUCCI, TOOHIL, J. McNEILL, WATSON, EVERETT, MARSICO,  
SCHWEYER, DeLUCA, CALTAGIRONE, BRADFORD, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
ROEBUCK, WHEELAND AND M. QUINN, APRIL 3, 2018

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
APRIL 3, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2018 as "Esophageal Cancer  
2 Awareness and Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, According to the National Cancer Institute, more  
4 than 17,000 individuals will be diagnosed with esophageal cancer  
5 in the United States in 2018, and nearly 16,000 will die from  
6 the disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the deadliest cancers and  
8 fewer than one in five patients will survive five years; and

9 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is often not detected and  
10 diagnosed until the disease has reached the later stages, when  
11 treatment is often radical, likely to cause complications and  
12 the outcomes are poor; and

13 WHEREAS, In the past, when esophageal cancer was detected  
14 early, open esophagectomy was associated with a high mortality  
15 rate and a prolonged length of stay and recovery in the

1 hospital; and

2 WHEREAS, Recent advances in surgery and critical care have  
3 allowed centers of excellence in selected academic hospitals to  
4 perform minimally invasive esophagectomy with excellent  
5 outcomes, lower risk of death and earlier return to activities  
6 of daily living; and

7 WHEREAS, One of the most common causes of esophageal cancer  
8 is heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), which is  
9 viewed by many sufferers as an acceptable condition of life; and

10 WHEREAS, GERD can lead to Barrett's esophagus, which results  
11 in as much as a 125% increase in an individual's chance of  
12 developing esophageal cancer; and

13 WHEREAS, With monitoring and treatment of GERD, the potential  
14 for long-term irreversible damage leading to esophageal cancer  
15 can be avoided; and

16 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer can occur without reflux symptoms  
17 or history of smoking or excessive alcohol use; and

18 WHEREAS, Esophageal cancer is among the cancers that receive  
19 the least amount of Federal medical research funding; and

20 WHEREAS, The health and well-being of all residents of this  
21 Commonwealth is enhanced by improving esophageal cancer  
22 awareness, prevention and increased research funding into early  
23 detection and treatment strategies; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the  
25 month of April 2018 as "Esophageal Cancer Awareness and  
26 Prevention Month" in Pennsylvania and encourage all residents of  
27 this Commonwealth to take steps to prevent this disease through  
28 treatment of gastroesophageal reflux.